

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled independent claims 12 and 13 and inserted in place thereof new independent claims 15 and 16, respectively. Applicant has amended claims 2-3, 5-7 and 9 to change their new dependency from claim 12 to new independent claim 15 and claim 14 to change its dependency from claim 13 to new independent claim 16.

Applicant has added new claim 17 dependent on new independent claim 15 and new claim 18 dependent on independent claim 16.

New claim 15 recites that the evaluation stage has means that always simultaneously evaluates a data stream on each of the n parallel lines with the evaluation based on the content of the data stream and is other than the presence or absence of data for a period of time and that the evaluation stage means uses the evaluation to select one of the n parallel lines as the receiving line for the at least one subscriber connected to the redundancy means. Claim 16 recites a method that performs the evaluation described above.

This is not new matter as the application as filed shows this simultaneous evaluation in Fig. 2. Further the selection of one of the n parallel bus lines based on the simultaneous evaluation of all of the lines is described at page 6, lines 20 et seq. of the application as filed.

The Rejections of the Claims

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by published German patent application no. 19,513,318 (Jantzen). The Examiner has used Jantzen in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,456,406 to reject claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and Jantzen in combination with various other cited references to reject claims 1-4, 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Jantzen teaches the art a system in which subscribers are connected to n serial bus lines in a hierarchy. As is described

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on page 2 of the English translation, one of the parallel bus lines is designated as the primary line such as line 11 in the only drawing figure and the other lines 12 to 1n in the only drawing figure are replacement or alternate lines. As is shown in the only drawing figure stations 21 and 22 are directly connected to line 11, stations 23 and 26 are connected to lines 11 and 12 by multiplexers 33 and 36, respectively, and stations 24 and 25 are connected to all of the lines by multiplexers 34 and 35, respectively.

Starting at the bottom of page 8, Jantzen teaches the monitoring of the data quality only on the active bus and the primary bus. The active bus is different than the primary bus if the data quality on the primary bus falls below a preset limit. Thus while stations 24 and 25 are connected by their associated multiplexers 34 and 35 to all of the bus lines, the associated multiplexer only monitors the primary bus line if data quality on that line is good and monitors the quality on the primary line and the active line only if the data quality on the primary line falls below a preset limit. While multiplexers 33 and 36 are connected to lines 11 and 12 of the n bus lines shown in the only drawing figure in Jantzen these multiplexers monitor line 11, which is the primary line as it is connected to all of the stations, if the data quality on line 11 is above the preset limit and if the data quality on line 11 falls below the preset limit monitors lines 11 and 12 provided that line 12 is selected as the active line.

X
see English
translation
last sentence
pg 7.

Jantzen on page 4 of the English translations discusses DE 37 13 825 A1 and says that published application describes a bus system which has two bus lines on which the identical message is serially transferred. Jantzen then says the system of the '825 application monitors both data transfer paths and by means of a detection logic checks whether a certain error detection character is transferred. Applicant attaches the abstract for the '825 application from the espacenet website. As stated therein the system of the '825 application evaluates predefined

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error detection characters in the detection logic DA and DB. Those predefined characters must be part of the identical messages transmitted on bus lines BA and BB.

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested as it will place this application in a condition for allowance.

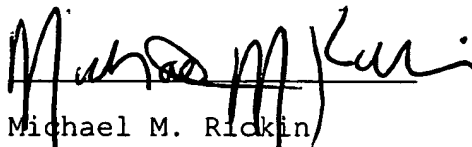
Petition and Fee For Extension of Time

Applicant also includes herewith a Petition and Fee For Extension of Time asking that the period to respond to this Action be extended to six months from the date of the mailing of the Action viz., May 18, 2005. As is set forth in the Transmittal Letter to which this Amendment is attached the required fee is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0877.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

5/18/05



Michael M. Rickin
Reg. No. 26,984
Attorney for Applicant
ABB Inc.
29801 Euclid Avenue
Wickliffe, OH 44092-2530
(440) 585-7840

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Mail Stop RCE
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on the 18th day of May, 2005.

Respectfully, Debra A. Rietze

Date: May 18, 2005